





most unfortunately received but too much com-  
mence. Though the country was burdened  
with a heavy public debt, large and in some in-  
stances unnecessary and extravagant expendi-  
tures were authorized by Congress. The conse-  
quence was, that the payment of the debt was  
postponed for more than twenty years; and  
even then, it was only accomplished by the  
stern will and unbending policy of President  
Jackson, who made its payment a leading mea-  
sure of his administration. He resisted the at-  
tempts which were made to divert the public  
money from that great object, and apply it in  
wasteful and extravagant expenditures for oth-  
er objects, some of them of more than doubtful  
constitutional authority and expediency.

If the government of the United States shall  
observe a proper economy in its expenditures,  
and be confined in its action to the conduct of  
our foreign relations and to the few general ob-  
jects of its care, enumerated in the constitution,  
leaving all municipal and local legislation to the  
States, our greatness as a nation in moral and  
physical power, and in wealth and resources,  
cannot be calculated.

By pursuing this policy, oppressive measures  
operating unequally and unjustly upon sections  
and classes will be avoided; and the people, having  
no cause of complaint, will be pursuing their own  
interests, under the blessings of equal laws and  
the protection of a just and paternal Government.

By abstaining from the exercise of all powers  
not clearly conferred, the cement of our glorious  
union, now numbering thirty States, will be  
strengthened as we grow in age and increase  
in population, and our future destiny will be  
without a parallel or example in the history of  
nations.

JAMES K. POLK.

Washington, July 6, 1848.

[From the Boston Post.]

MARTIN VAN BUREN.

The course of Mr. Van Buren is regarded by  
democrats generally with mortification. For  
years he has been receiving honor at his hands.  
They have defended him from the attacks of his  
enemies and cherished him as a representative  
of their principles. This long, steady, triumphant  
support surely established claims on the part  
of the democrats to continued fidelity; at least in  
so far as this, that he should so control a feeling  
of revenge as not by an indulgence of it to jeo-  
pardize the success of the democratic party, and  
thereby the success of those principles that have  
been so long regarded as connected with the  
prosperity of the country. But such a claim  
has been scouted by Mr. Van Buren. He was,  
beyond a doubt, disappointed and chagrined  
that he was not nominated by the convention of  
1844, and from that day to this, has never for-  
given his party for rejecting him. After rank-  
ing in his breast for years, his passion now finds  
utterance, when there is a prospect that his re-  
venge can be gratified. And so the man who  
owes his political honors to an adherence to re-  
gular nominations, now that fidelity to them can  
give him and his family nothing, is ready to re-  
pudiate them and to endeavor to break up his  
party. All this is to gratify his resentment—  
this is the explanation, the only explanation  
that is worth a straw, of his conduct. To ascribe  
his bolting from the regular nomination of Cass  
and Butler either to the decision of the conven-  
tion in relation to the barnburners' delegation,  
or to his peculiar love of free soil or hatred of  
slavery, is ridiculous. Neither is sufficient to  
account for it to justify it. Both are pretexts  
only—set forth in his letter with his usual inge-  
nuity and ability, we admit—but utterly at vari-  
ance with the whole tenor of his life. If Martin  
Van Buren has not been a cautious man a  
stickler for regular nominations, then there never  
was one; if he has not protected and defend-  
ed the south in the sickening cant of the day, "the  
slave power," then it never had a defender.

The first pretext set up is that his peculiar  
friends, the barnburners, were not regarded as  
the regular delegation, but that both sets of de-  
legates, the hunkers and the barnburners, were  
admitted. This was regarded by the convention  
as a local quarrel, which ought to be settled by  
the voters of New York rather than by the con-  
vention, and henceforth were admitted on a foot-  
ing of equality, with the privilege of casting the  
vote to which the Empire State was entitled.—  
This was the most practical mode that present-  
ed itself to dispose of the question. The dele-  
gations not being able to agree among themselves,  
New York lost her vote in the convention; and  
hence Mr. Van Buren's position is that the de-  
mocracy of New York are not bound to support  
the nomination. On this point the remarks of  
the Union are so forcible and unanswerable, that  
we quote them and adopt them:—

"Does Mr. Van Buren mean to say that the  
only claim which a democratic candidate has  
upon the democracy of any state rests upon its  
being represented in the convention which nomi-  
nated him, and not upon the principles of the  
party which he represented? Does he mean  
to make principles secondary to party organiza-  
tion, and maintain that the duty of the democ-  
racy grows out of the regularity of the last, and  
not the soundness of the former? Does he mean  
to say, when there is but one democratic can-  
didate in the field, and he is represented by the  
concurrence of the democracy of every state in  
the Union but one, and by a portion of the de-  
mocracy of that one, that the rest of that democ-  
racy are under no sort of obligation to support  
him, but that it may contribute to the success of  
his opponent, because, either in consequence of  
their own fault, or, if you please, the fault of others,  
they were not present in the convention which  
nominated him? Does he mean to say that in 18-  
32, when he was nominated as the democratic  
candidate for vice president upon the ticket with  
General Jackson, neither of them had any claim  
upon the support of the democracy of those states  
which were not represented in the convention  
which nominated him? Does he mean to say that in 18-  
32 he had no claim upon the democracy of Penn-

sylvania for their support, because, in the con-  
vention of 1832, two sets of delegates, who had  
a dispute about the regularity of their appoint-  
ments—in every essential particular analogous  
to the contest between the two New York dele-  
gations to the late convention—were admitted  
upon the same terms upon which those sets of  
New York delegates were? Does he mean to  
say, that he had no claims upon the democracy  
of Illinois in 1836, inasmuch as it was objected  
that a portion of the Kentucky delegation—who  
had by the democracy of Illinois been deputed  
to do so—should represent them, and they were  
thus left without any representation at all?—  
Does he mean to say that he had no claim upon  
the democracy of Tennessee for their support  
at the time referred to, because the right to a  
seat in the convention of the only person who  
represented that state was seriously questioned?  
If he does say this, then we must respectfully  
beg leave to differ with him, and to express the  
opinion that the sound democracy of the country  
will differ with him also. In our opinion and  
we venture little in saying in the opinion of this  
same democracy—the democracy of no state in  
the Union except itself from its obligation to  
support the democratic candidate, sound in prin-  
ciples eminent in talent, and who is presented  
to the country by the concurrence of all the oth-  
er states, on the plea that it has not been re-  
presented in the convention which nominated  
him, and upon the precise terms which it desir-  
ed; especially when, as in this case, the only  
obstacle to their being thus represented grew  
out of their own factious disagreements, which  
the democracy of the other states found it im-  
possible to adjust."

On the free soil question Mr. Van Buren  
stands in a peculiarly unfortunate position. In  
his letter he more than intimates that his main  
objection to Cass and Butler lies here. In com-  
mending the course of the members of the new  
sectional party, he says—

"If I understand your course, your delegates  
went to the convention prepared to accept the  
nomination of any sound democrat, who had not  
actually submitted to test which implicated the  
well-known and repeatedly expressed opinion  
of your state, without interrogating him in re-  
gard to his opinion on this (slavery) question."

Democrats will want words to express the  
mortification they feel at such a pretext as this  
to justify Van Buren in turning his back upon  
them. They have adopted on this subject no  
new platform. They stand now where they  
stood in 1832, when they elected him vice pre-  
sident, and in 1836, when they elected him pre-  
sident, and in 1840, when they so zealously rally-  
ed again in his support. General Cass was one  
of those who supported this platform then and  
contributed to his success and democrats ask no  
more now of Cass than they, with Cass, asked  
of Van Buren. When he was thus a candidate  
for honors, who went further than Van Buren  
in professing sympathy for the south? Who  
went further than he did in denouncing the spirit  
of ambition? Did he not announce that if he  
went into the presidential chair it must be with  
the understanding that he should veto any bill  
abolishing slavery in the district of Columbia?—  
But read portions of his letter in March, 1836:

"I recognize, to the fullest extent, the pro-  
priety of this desire on your part; and although  
there is nothing in your letter making the avow-  
al necessary, I prefer that not only you, but all  
the people of the United States, shall now un-  
derstand, that if the desire of that portion of  
them which is favorable to my elevation to the  
chief magistracy, I must go into the presidential  
chair the inflexible and uncompromising  
OPONENT of every attempt on the part of Congress  
to abolish slavery in the district of Columbia;  
against the wishes of the slaveholding states; and  
also with the determination, equally decided, to  
resist the slightest interference with the subject in  
the states where it exists."

"I do therefore believe that the abolition  
of slavery in the district of Columbia, against the  
wishes of the slaveholding states, (assuming that  
Congress has the power to effect it,) would vio-  
late the spirit of that compromise of interests  
which lies at the base of our social compact; and  
I am thoroughly convinced that it could not be  
so done, without imminent peril, if not certain  
destruction to the union of the states. Viewing  
the matter in this light, it is my clear and settled  
opinion, that the federal government ought to ab-  
stain from doing so; and that it is the sacred  
duty of those whom the people of the United  
States intrust with the control of its action, so to  
use the constitutional power with which they  
are invested as to prevent it."

In the same letter upon the same subject, he  
says:—  
"Recent results here, and the discussions with  
which they have been attended, cannot fail to  
attract the attention of the reading and reflect-  
ing portion of the foreign public. By the means  
they will be made to understand our real con-  
dition in this respect; and they will know that  
the unchangeable law of that condition is, that  
the slave question must be left to the control of  
the slaveholding states themselves, without molesta-  
tion or interference from any quarter; that foreign  
interference of every description can only be in-  
jurious to the slave, without benefit to any inter-  
esting party; and that any interference, coming from  
the non-slaveholding portions of our territory, is  
calculated to endanger the perpetuity, and, if  
sanctioned by the general government, would in-  
evitably occasion the dissolution of our happy Uni-  
on."

Quotations filling columns of similar import  
might be multiplied. When secretary of state,  
Mr. Van Buren, in writing to one of the officials  
of the government, cautioned him to oppose the  
baneful spirit of emancipation designed to be in-  
troduced and propagated in the island of Cuba.  
When vice president, he gave his casting vote  
that never before the present Presidential con-

test, was there so much ultra devotion to men  
on the side of an opposition, as has marked the  
conduct of the Federal party at the present time.  
It is true they profess to have shown great inde-  
pendence in overlooking the claims of their most  
prominent leader—but why did they do so? It  
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tions at the disposal of a submissive and pliable  
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But they say, "We must put down the present  
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army as lieutenant at 19 years of age, and be-  
ing now 62 years of age, has been in the army,  
and in the pay of government, for 43 years.—  
He holds at this moment the highest rank in the  
army, while a candidate for the Presidency, and  
receives between 7 and \$8,000 annual salary.  
And, although all his life in office, it has not  
been in offices where he could learn how to  
make a President. He acknowledges that him-  
self.

Gen. Taylor's doctrine of leaving all  
questions to Congress is as absurd as it may be  
mischievous. Upon this doctrine, if the two  
houses were to declare by a solemn act that the  
war in which he won his laurels was, as his  
friends have often avowed, a war against God,  
against right, against justice, and against hu-  
manity, he would be forced to acquiesce, and so  
tacitly to endorse the burning slander that he  
granted and insulted him! What a spectacle!

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(For the Democrat.)  
**Free Soil—Democratic Policy.**

Mr. Editor.—In casting my eye over the  
political Government of the United States at  
the present time, and watching the measures  
and objects of the different parties, one fact  
cannot fail to strike and arrest the attentive ob-  
server. That fact is the all-absorbing subject of  
Free Soil, and the prominence which the whigs,  
abolitionists and factionists of all kinds give to  
it. On this question it is highly necessary for  
the interests of the United States that the de-  
mocratic party stand where they have ever stood,  
and not be driven from their position by whig  
management and gasconade. The prominent  
position of the democratic party on questions of  
this nature, every since the adoption of the  
Constitution, has been to enlarge the area of  
freedom and restrict that of slavery. To be  
convinced of this general fact it is only necessary  
to refer to Mr. Madison's argument in the  
Federalist, in favor of the adoption of the Con-  
stitution—the Ordinance of 1787, introduced  
by Jefferson, and to various acts of Congress—  
Among those acts I might refer to the Comprom-  
ise line. That compromise line, as most men  
know, was a concession in favor of freedom and  
free soil. It caused far the greater part of the  
Louisiana purchase to become free territory,  
whereas, before the compromise, the whole was  
subject to the law of slavery. At this moment,  
according to the Compromise line of 36° 30',  
there is not sufficient territory where slaves can  
be introduced under this compromise, to form a  
single State as large as Virginia; while there is  
nearly the whole of Missouri Territory, the  
whole of California, New Mexico, and the un-  
settled lands of Texas, which are free, and  
let what party may arrive at power, it must and  
will remain so.

Our illustrious candidate for the Presidency,  
although truly and commendably anxious to cul-  
tivate the friendship of the Southern States, has  
taken no position, assumed no attitude inconsis-  
tent with the former course of the Democratic  
party, or with the true interests and future  
greatness of our free institutions. The enemies  
of Gen. Cass say he has yielded to the South,  
to Slavery; and one would suppose from read-  
ing the whig trinitas, that if he rose to the Presi-  
dency, Slavery would be the law of the Uni-  
verse. Where is the evidence that Gen. Cass  
will yield up any Constitutional ground on this  
subject, and array himself against freedom?  
No speech of his can be quoted; no act, public  
or private, can be made to prove such absurd  
doctrine. There is no such doctrine in the  
Democratic Creed. At the Baltimore Con-  
vention, Mr. Vaney, of Alabama, a good democ-  
rat, but a great lover of the peculiar institu-  
tion, attempted to commit the democratic party  
on this question. He introduced the follow-  
ing Resolution:—

"Resolved, That the doctrine of non-interference  
with the rights of property of any portion of the peo-  
ple of this Confederation, be it in the States or in the  
Territories, by any other than the parties interested  
in them, is the true Republican doctrine recognized  
by this body."

Had this Resolution passed at the Baltimore  
Convention, it would have given cause of alarm  
to the friends of liberty, and restricted on a vi-  
tal point the action of the democratic party. I  
need scarcely add, in relation to this Resolu-  
tion, that it was rejected, yeas 36, nays 216.—  
The object of this Resolution was simply to per-  
mit, to use no stronger phrase, simply to permit  
Slaveholders to introduce and hold slaves in  
free territory. This vote shows how decidedly  
the Convention disapproved of such a measure.  
Gen. Cass, therefore, in giving this Convention  
his approval, shows no desire to lend his aid  
to improper or slavery doctrines.

The doctrine of the democratic party in rela-  
tion to slavery, has been that of non-interfer-  
ence. It was and is the doctrine of the South  
and North. In the time of Jefferson, the de-  
mocratic party did interfere to limit slavery, but  
never, to extend it to territory already free.—  
For proof of this, we point to the celebrated or-  
dinance of 1787. Free territory was then the  
doctrine; so it was at the time the Compromise  
line was agreed upon. Non-interference is now  
the doctrine of the democratic party. Even  
Southern men, some of them, insist upon this  
doctrine, whether with a full knowledge of its  
effect, or not. A distinguished  
democrat from Virginia, in the course of his re-  
marks in the late Baltimore Convention, said—  
"the uniformly recognized doctrine of the de-  
mocratic party upon the subject of slavery, has  
been that of non-interference." This doctrine  
is, of all doctrines, the most sound, the most Re-  
publican, and the most wise. It is a doctrine  
which renders unnecessary all Wilnot Proviso,  
and all efforts for the propagation of slavery.—  
If Congress at this moment would insist that no  
Proviso, no acts should be passed in relation to  
Slavery, but leave the Territories of Oregon, of  
California, and New Mexico to themselves, free,  
just as they find them, and just as God himself  
has made them, they would carry out in good  
faith the true interests of the country and the  
hours were occupied in marching round the  
locks at Louisville; arrived at Cincinnati on the  
12th. On the 13th took the cars on the  
Little Miami and Mad River Railroad, and  
reached Sandusky on the 14th. Left for Buf-  
falo on the 15th, arrived on the 17th, and left  
in the afternoon for Albany, where they arrived  
on the evening of the 18th. Started from  
Albany the morning of the 19th and arrived at  
the quarters prepared for them the same even-  
ing. Whole distance within the United States  
nearly 3000 miles. Time, 16 days.

The whole amount of marching performed by  
the regiment, as a body, in Mexico, independ-  
ent of much escort duty by individual compa-  
nies, was about 1400 miles. It passed up and  
down on both lines, viz: first on Gen. Taylor's  
and then on Gen. Scott's.

Gov. Shunk, of Pennsylvania, has resigned  
his office on account of ill health.

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